Today's News - Monday, June 2, 2008

- ArcSpace brings us a new L.A. high school (just landed from outer space?).
- Nouvel accepts his Pritzker today: he's "a bit of mischief-maker, so who knows what he might say?"
- Ouroussoff on Gehry's "long overdue" Manhattan tower: "proof that the skyscraper has yet to exhaust itself as an urban art form."
 lovine includes an eyeful of his "titanium-free" tower.
 Russell fears that Hudson Yards plans "may get further dumbed down," which would be a loss of "epic proportions."

- Saffron on Philadelphia's dazzling new tower (it works best at street level).
- Hume on remediating 50 years of suburban sprawi: without incentives, it'll take at least another 50 years.
 Meanwhile, big-box stores slim down to follow suburbanites relocating to cities.

- Dhaka (finally) taking its architectural heritage seriously.

 Portsmouth, UK, to Dyckhoff. Spinnaker Tower is not a "bimbo building"!
- A look at some radical campus architecture that really works (terrific slide show).
- King gives thumbs-up to new affordable housing in a high-rent San Francisco neighborhood.
 Glancey on FOA's new John Lewis store: "wrapped in fancy tights" and "an extraordinary piece of architectural eye-candy" (but does it work?)
- Pitt and GRAFT to draft a 5-star hotel with a green lining in Dubai (where else?).
 A Baltimore armory could see new life as a soundstage in a new transit-oriented development.
 An eyeful of traffic-stopping parking structures.
- Boddy on a new Vancouver house that flat-lines gable roofs and saccharine detail.
- Rawsthom on "design art": whatever it means, its "less ditzy side to it is emerging."
 Eliasson talks waterfalls while walking the Manhattan the waterfront in the rain.
- 12 teams shortlisted for Living Steel Extreme Housing competition.

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Nearing completion: Coop Himmelb(I)au: Central Los Angeles Area High School #9, Los Angeles

Rooted in the Here and Wow: Jean Nouvel Has Built a Following With His Novel Vision: ...[he] is a bit of mischief-maker, so who knows what he might say in Washington today? [slide show]- Washington Post

Looking Skyward in Lower Manhattan: Frank Gehry's 76-story Beekman Tower...should be considered long overdue...Draped over a classical shell, the tower's crinkled steel skin is proof that the skyscraper has yet to exhaust itself as an urban art form...signals that the city is finally emerging from a long period of creative exhaustion. By Nicolai Ouroussoff [images]- New York Times

Unveiled: Beekman Tower: Frank Gehry on cotton candy, eco-fashion, Atlantic Yards, and his latest, titanium-free, market-rate rental tower. By Julie V. lovine [images]- The Architect's Newspaper (NYC)

<u>Hudson Yards Deal May Squander Great Site's Design: ...developer's design...may get</u> further dumbed down to assure MTA of its needed funds -- which would be a loss to the city of epic proportions. By James S. Russell -- Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF; Robert A.M. Stern Architects; Arquitectonica [slide show]- Bloomberg News

Comcast's new tower a blank slate for city: If a new skyscraper can't be great architecture, it can still make its mark as a dazzling presence...plaza cafe and concourse mall promise to become a bustling urban nexus. By Inga Saffron -- Robert A.M. Stern/Graham Wyatt; Olin Partnership [slide show]- Philadelphia Inquirer

A planning headache, 50 years in the making: The time has come when we must finally pay the price of the suburbs...suburban cities are trying to change their way, smarten up and grow intelligently. "There are no incentives to make efficient decisions." By Christopher Hume- Toronto Star

Big-Box Stores Slim Down for Urban Settings: ...suburbanites are downsizing to apartments and condos...on walkable downtown blocks in San Diego, Milwaukee, Atlanta, and other cities nationwide. Big-box retailers are in hot pursuit...to tap these emerging markets. -- Callison- Architectural Record

Hosiery house: John Lewis's newest store looks like a big box wrapped in fancy tights. Is this really what Leicester needs? ...an extraordinary piece of architectural eye-candy. By Jonathan Glancey -- Foreign Office Architects (FOA)- Guardian (UK)

Brad Pitt to design five-star hotel in Dubai: ...will work as a design consultant to Los Angeles architecture firm GRAFT on the 800-room, environmentally-friendly hotel...-Building (UK)

A silver lining in the clouds: Urban development committee to take steps to save heritage buildings. At last the government decided to take immediate steps to save Dhaka's heritage sites. - The Daily Star (Bangladesh)

Bimbo building? No – tower's a real city icon: Spinnaker Tower operators are fighting back after the landmark was labelled a 'bimbo building' with 'junk-food' architecture by a top critic...Tom Dyckhoff was not available for comment.- The News (Portsmouth, UK)

Universities tempt students with radical architecture: But what are all these buildings really for? Why do they look so dramatic, and are they any good? By lain Borden/Bartlett School of Architecture — Edward Cullinan Architects; BDP; Surface Architects; Daniel Libeskind; Alan Short Associates; Alsop Architects; Foster & Partners [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Affordable housing in high-rent location: ...the complex called, simply enough, Broadway Family Apartments...if the look evokes the past, the use signals the needs of a 21st century metropolis where affordable housing is in short supply. By John King -- WRT/Solomon E.T.C. [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

After troop withdrawal: a soundstage? Baltimore's 5th Regiment Armory could...be converted for new uses as part of a transit-oriented development that would also contain new housing, commercial space and offices for state agencies and others. By Edward Gunts -- Design Collective- Baltimore Sun

Traffic-Stopping Parking Structures: Dark, dingy, even unsafe, car parks are probably the last place you'd expect to find innovative architecture. But some defy expectations — Moore Ruble Yudell; AC Martin; Henriquez Partners; Gray Puksand/Michael Avramidis; Huntsman Architectural Group; Emmanuel Combarel/Dominique Marrec; Office dA/Johnston Marklee; Manuelle Gautrand; ECDM; Spillis Candela DMJM [slide show]-BusinessWeek

An outsider at home in Shaughnessy: The bad news was that neighbours were conservative...The good news was that a new generation of Vancouver municipal planners, and community advocates of Modernism...were itching to find a design proposal that would challenge the area's orthodoxy of gable roofs and saccharine detail. By Trevor Boddy — Measured Architecture [slide show]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Whatever 'design-art' is, it's thriving: ...a commercial phenomenon, not a cultural one...Despite the purists' sneers...as the market matures, a less ditzy side to it is emerging. By Alice Rawsthorn -- Jeroen Verhoeven; Shigeru Ban; Marc Newson; Junya Ishigami; Ron Arad; Ross Lovegrove; Stuart Haygarth; etc. [slide show]- International Herald Tribune

From a Master of Weather, 4 Waterfalls for New York: Olafur Eliasson...plans to create four waterfalls ranging from 90 to 120 feet in height on the New York waterfront....being billed as the city's biggest public art project since "The Gates" by Christo and Jeanne-Claude... [slide show]- New York Times

Finalists for 3rd International Living Steel Competition for Sustainable Housing: 12 Teams Compete for Extreme Housing in Cherepovets, Russia -- Moxon Architects; AtenaSstudio/modostudio; Hugh Broughton; Bligh Voller Nield; FGMF Arquitetos; Architecture Paradigm; ECDA; LCA; Nitsche Arquitetos; H-L-P Architects; Peter Stutchbury; RVTR [links]- Living Steel

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